

SN. 10/803,795

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REMARKS

Only allowable claims 5, 6, 8-12, and 14 are now pending in this application. Claims 1-4, 7, and 13 have been canceled to place this application in condition for allowance. The present amendment removes all informalities identified by the examiner and renders moot the art and non-art rejections, including the non-statutory double patenting rejection. In claims 8 and 14, the first occurrence of "control device/means" has been deleted.

Objection Under Rule 75

Only one issue is believed to remain in this application for which applicants seek reconsideration. Claims 8 and 14 were essentially objected to under Rule 75 as being redundant. Applicants submit that claims 8 and 14 have different claim scopes. Specifically, claim 14 relies on "mean-plus-function" limitations to define the invention, whereas claim 8 recites specific structural elements to define the invention. Applicants take Official Notice that the scope of "means-plus-function" limitations are different from structural limitations to the extent that "means-plus-function" limitations have to be interpreted under § 112, sixth paragraph, whereas structural limitations do not.

Should the examiner decide to maintain this rejection, applicants request an interview with the examiner in the presence of his supervisor.

Conclusion

Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Should the examiner have any issues concerning this reply or any other outstanding issues remaining in this application, applicants urge the examiner to contact the undersigned to expedite prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,

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14 MARCH 2006
DATE


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REG. NO. 34,079 (RULE 34, WHERE APPLICABLE)

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